UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Getting In - Part 6

In our last post in the Getting In series, we noted the issue of college admissions essays being written by AI and the difficulty in practice of detecting them.* Here is another use of AI in admissions (to UC, among other universities):

From KGO-7-ABC: *A Palo Alto father who has filed multiple lawsuits against major university systems over his son's college rejections says artificial intelligence has become the key to pursuing the cases after no law firm agreed to represent them. The legal fight stems from a 2023 ABC7 News story about Stanley Zhong, then an 18-year-old Gunn High School student with a 4.4 GPA and a near-perfect 1590 SAT score who was rejected by 16 out of the 18 colleges he applied to. Despite the rejections, he was later hired as a software engineer at Google. Two and a half years later, his father, Nan Zhong, says the family remains convinced racial discrimination played a role in those decisions...*

Zhong said Stanley, now 21, is happy and doing well in his job at Google. "In 2025, he received an outstanding impact performance rating, which is higher than majority of the Google engineers," he said. Zhong said the family spent a year in discussions with University of California officials after Stanley's rejections, but nothing changed. He said the turning point came when a UC admissions director emailed him, writing that his allegation of racial discrimination was unfounded because California law bans the practice.

"When I got that line, I kept scratching my head," Zhong said. "They're saying there cannot be any noncompliance if there's a law banning it, but we're exactly accusing them of breaking the law secretly. So that is the point where I realized there's nothing we can achieve by having a conversation with them." Zhong said conversations with state lawmakers and Gov. Gavin Newsom also went nowhere, prompting the family to sue the University of California, the University of Washington, the University of Michigan and Cornell University.

He said they struggled to find legal representation. "We've been talking to local law firms, national law firms. By my account, we probably talked to dozens of legal organizations and law firms. None of them took it," Zhong said. With statutes of limitation approaching, he said the family decided to represent themselves. "Of course, being somebody with no legal experience at all, we naturally turned to AI," he said. "It turned out to be a boon that we never anticipated to be so effective."

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- FAQs for Senate Faculty about Possible Strike by UAW; Winter 2026
- Fight for the Future of Higher Education: Academic Freedom from the Classroom to the Clinic
- Our Concerns Over Revisions to APMs 15 and 16
- Fight for the Future of Higher Ed Town Hall
- Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 51. Academic Freedom of the Third Kind, in a Very Bad Time - 4/7/2026
- Liner Note 50. When Will UCOP Stop Hurting UC Campuses? - 3/24/2026
- A Joint MESA-AAUP Report Shows the Corruption of Anti-Semitism Charges (Guest Post) - 3/23/2026

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

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- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Zhong said they use multiple AI models simultaneously to analyze legal questions, compare answers and prevent errors. "It's like having a team of deep lawyers, top lawyers, all working for you," he said. He pointed to a recent ruling in the University of Washington case, where a judge rejected the university's motion to stay the case. Zhong said the decision underscored a challenge in bringing admissions lawsuits: students often lose legal standing once they reach their junior year of college. "Here, Stanley has a unique advantage. He's not going to college yet. He may go at any time," Zhong said. "So, in some ways, he has evergreen legal standing that allows us to bring the lawsuit." ...

Full story at https://abc7news.com/post/google-engineer-rejected-colleges-uses-ai-sue-ucs-other-universities-racial-discrimination/18849388/.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/04/getting-in-part-5.html.

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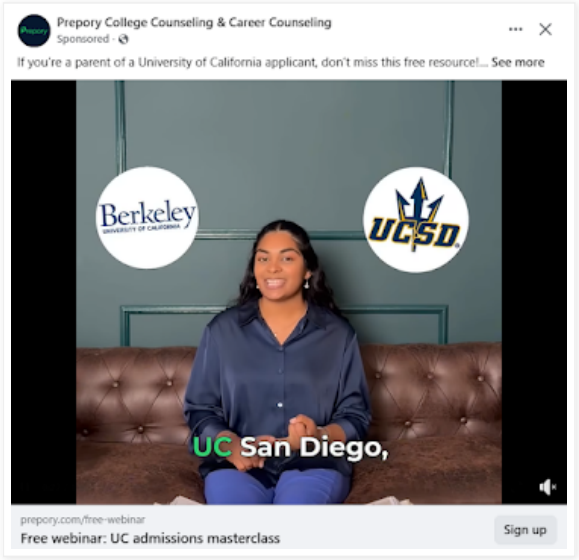
If only he had known about this: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With thousands of applications to review, UC admissions officers look for specific markers of success. Brennan Bowen has reviewed those applications for UC Berkeley and... See more
THE SECRET TO UC ADMISSION IN 2026
start.empowerly.com
April 9: How to Get Into the UC System
Learn more

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, Cornell, diversity, governor, legislature, U of Michigan, U of Washington, UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 312

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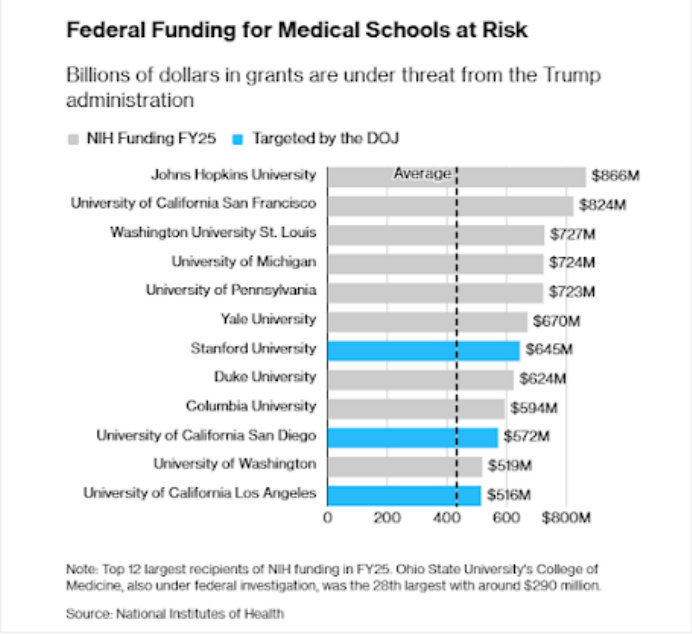
Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 139

From Bloomberg: *President Donald Trump's administration has opened a new front in its campaign to reshape US colleges, homing in on racial diversity at some of the top medical schools in the country. The Department of Justice has launched investigations into medical programs at Stanford, the University of California San Diego and Ohio State University, accusing them of giving a leg up to minority applicants. The administration has made similar claims about a swath of universities. But for medical schools, those accusations — and the accompanying risk to their federal funding — are an especially potent weapon.*

Medical programs already took a hit last year when the president slashed billions in research grants, which disproportionately affects biomedical fields. The National Institutes of Health alone terminated nearly $2 billion in payments to medical schools as of last June. But even bigger sums could be at stake if the DOJ investigations widen beyond the initial slate of schools.


Federal Funding for Medical Schools at Risk
Billions of dollars in grants are under threat from the Trump administration
NIH Funding FY25
Targeted by the DOJ
Average
Johns Hopkins University $866M
University of California San Francisco $824M
Washington University St. Louis $727M
University of Michigan $724M
University of Pennsylvania $723M
Yale University $670M
Stanford University $645M
Duke University $624M
Columbia University $594M
University of California San Diego $572M
University of Washington $519M
University of California Los Angeles $516M
0
200
400
600
$800M
Note: Top 12 largest recipients of NIH funding in FY25. Ohio State University's College of Medicine, also under federal investigation, was the 28th largest with around $290 million.
Source: National Institutes of Health

The NIH awarded over $19 billion to medical programs last year, and students rely on federal aid and loans to afford famously expensive medical degrees. If schools are found to be in violation of anti-discrimination law, they risk getting cut off from all this funding...

Full story at https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-04-08/trump-targets-top-medical-schools-as-next-higher-ed-battleground.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Columbia, diversity, Duke, health care, Johns Hopkins, politics, Stanford, U of Michigan, U of Pennsylvania, U of Washington, UC-San Diego, UC-San Francisco, UCLA, Washington U, Yale

Another One

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The Regents are having another closed-door meeting about the conflict with the feds. The last such meeting was only a week ago. Is something up? Some new development?

TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Because the membership of the Advisory Group on Research and Programs Funding Legal Issues ("Advisory Group") includes five members of the Regents' Governance Committee, there exists the potential for having present a quorum of a Regents' Committee when the advisory committee meets.

This notice of meeting is served in order to comply fully with pertinent open meeting laws.

On Tuesday, April 14, 2026, there will be a Closed Session, Special Meeting of the Regents' Governance Committee concurrent with the Advisory Group to discuss Research and Programs Funding Legal Issues (Closed Session Statute Citation: Litigation [Education Code section 92032(b)(5)].)

The meeting will convene at 4:00 p.m. at 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland and adjourn at approximately 4:30 p.m.

(Advisory Group members: Regents Anguiano, Cohen, Hernandez, Matosantos, Milliken, Reilly, Robinson, Sarris, and Sures)

Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/april26/meeting-notice_federal-april-14-2026.pdf.

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NOTE: Although UC maintains a website entitled "Federal Developments," the last posting there that *directly* dealt with the conflict with the feds was from October 2025. See:

https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/federal-updates.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, UC, UC Regents

Monday, April 13, 2026

Agostini's Every Ship on Its Own Bottom - Part 2

In an earlier post, we noted - based on former UCLA VC & CFO Agostini's budget book - who were the Bad Guys, i.e., those running a deficit of at least 5% of expenditures for the current fiscal year, as projected in Sept. 2025.* We again emphasize the caveat that revenue at the unit level is often in whole or in part an allocation so a deficit could mean an insufficient allocation as opposed to improper overspending.

► 2016 (715)
► 2015 (765)
► 2014 (704)
► 2013 (776)
► 2012 (839)
► 2011 (738)
► 2010 (431)
► 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

Agostini found a projected overall deficit in the units he identified. But some units ran surpluses (revenues > expenditures. **So, who were the Good Guys in his calculation?** We again use the arbitrary 5% figure and define Good Guys as those with projected surpluses of 5% or greater of expenditures.

The list of Good Guys is below. It might not surprise you to know that the CFO's office is one of the Good Guys:

$ Millions	2025-26 Projected Surplus	% of Expenditures
Enrollment Management	1.50	7.3
Institute of the Environment	6.15	41.0
L+S Undergraduate Education	5.88	11.3
School of Public Affairs	19.91	19.7
Summer Session & International Education	5.18	17.4
VC and CFO	*6.30*	*13.3*

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/04/agostinis-every-ship-on-its-own-bottom.html. At this link you will also find links to past budget postings and sources.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 311

From Inside Higher Ed: *Republicans are fuming over the decision to oust the system president. One Democrat countered that "we need to stop partisan finger-pointing." Republicans in Wisconsin want answers and are vowing to retaliate after the Universities of Wisconsin system Board of Regents fired President Jay Rothman [last] Tuesday night with no public explanation.*

Accusing the regents of blatant partisanship, Republicans in the State Legislature are planning to hold a hearing on the firing and to vote against 10 board appointees who have been nominated and are already serving on the board but haven't been confirmed. The Senate's GOP-controlled Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges, which is holding the hearing, can't stop the nominations on its own, but the mounting threats may set up a showdown over who serves on the board if the full Republican-majority Legislature takes up the fight.

Rothman, who has led the 25-campus system for almost four years, has said he doesn't know why he was fired and defended his tenure. In a series of letters made public last week, he accused the board of trying to push him out without explanation...

"I think that the notion that he is unaware of the problems and challenges and people's concerns is bullshit. He absolutely is aware. He absolutely has been informed by the regents in many different conversations," [a] source said. "And it's not just the regents who are the ones who have concerns. They are responsible for managing over a dozen campuses, and many of the chancellors on those campuses also had concerns and complaints about his leadership, and he is very much aware of that." ...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/governance/executive-leadership/2026/04/08/rothman-firing-divides-wisconsin-lawmakers.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, U of Wisconsin

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 141

From the Harvard Crimson: *Harvard's graduate student union said Friday afternoon that it would begin a strike on April 21 if the University does not meet its demands by then, escalating a labor dispute that has stretched on for more than a year. In an email to members, the Harvard Graduate Student Union-United Auto Workers accused Harvard's negotiators of refusing to engage on key issues, including wages, protections for non-citizen workers, and access to third-party arbitration in cases of harassment and discrimination.*

Union leaders pointed to the results of a strike authorization vote last month — in which nearly 96 percent of participating members voted in favor — as evidence of a broad support for a walkout... Even as they set a deadline, union leaders said they remained open to reaching an agreement. "We hope that between now and our strike deadline, Harvard makes a good faith effort to come to the table, meet with us and bargain over our articles," said Linsdey Adams, a member of the bargaining committee. Absent an agreement, she added, "on the morning of the 21st [of April], we are on strike until we have a fair contract." ...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/4/11/hgsu-set-strike-date/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard, strikes

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Disappeared - Part 3

As blog readers will know, the individual convicted of child sex abuse as an employee in a UCLA child care center was convicted but disappeared while out on bail. Yours truly could find no news stories indicating that Christopher Rodriguez, the convicted former employee, has been found. In contrast, the lawsuit against UCLA has not disappeared. From the Daily Bruin:

Teachers at UCLA's Early Care and Education centers told administrators in 2017 that they were struggling to meet teacher-student ratios and did not have enough supervision in their classrooms. Seven years later, their colleague of nearly 25 years was arrested for sexually abusing the children under his care. Twenty-five teachers from various ECE locations said they did not have enough staff to supervise their classrooms, according to a 2017 internal task force report obtained by the Daily Bruin. One teacher alleged in the report that their classroom did not

have enough caretakers to meet legal supervision requirements at least 50% of the time due to staffing fluctuations...

One parent and UCLA faculty member whose child was in Rodriguez's class when he worked at the Krieger Center said they pulled their child out of ECE because of what they saw as a lack of classroom management over a year before his arrest. Their child had experienced night terrors and behavioral issues throughout their time at Krieger, they added...

A spokesperson for UCLA ECE said in an emailed statement that they are committed to providing a safe environment for their community, but do not comment on pending legal matters...

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/04/04/child-care-teachers-reported-understaffing-years-before-coworkers-arrest-document-shows.

As we have noted before, whatever happens in the litigation, this case seems like another Big Dollar settlement is brewing.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 310

From CNN: *At this point in her senior year at Yale University, Amanda knows that many of her classmates turn to AI chatbots to write papers and other homework assignments. But she started noticing something bizarre in her smaller seminar classes: Her classmates sit behind laptops with polished talking points and arguments, but the conversations that follow often fall flat across subjects. In one class, "the conversation came to a halt, and I looked to my left, and I saw someone typing ferociously on their laptop, asking (a chatbot) the question my professor just asked about the reading," Amanda told CNN.*

...Amanda said she was taken aback. Until that day, she didn't realize that her peers were using chatbots in class and sharing what it spits out in the classroom. Now she notices the impact that tendency is having on class discussions. "Everyone now kind of sounds the same," she said. "I feel like during my freshman year in college, I would sit in seminars where everyone had something different to contribute. Although people would piggyback off each other, they approached from different angles and offered different commentary."

As AI becomes increasingly integrated with education, educators and researchers are finding that it may be eroding students' capacity for original thought and expression. A paper published in March in Trends in Cognitive Sciences found that large language models are systematically homogenizing human expression and thought across three dimensions — language, perspective and reasoning — and students and educators say they are seeing the effects of that trend in their classrooms.

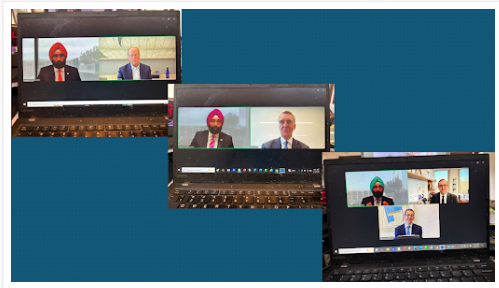
And that makes a lot of students sound the same...

Full story at https://www.cnn.com/2026/04/04/health/ai-impact-college-student-thinking-wellness.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: plagiarism, Yale

More Conversations - Part 2



In a prior post, we provided the audio to UC CFO Jagdeep Bachhar recent "conversations" with several figures from the world of finance.* As we noted, they were all anxious to tell a story of not-to-worry about such developments as the Iran War and the related boost of energy prices. They all urged taking a long view in which these short term events won't matter. Bachhar indicated a similar view, i.e., we're in it for the long term with our pension and endowment.

So here's an excerpt from a recent op ed in the NY Times:

Over the past few years, one of the signature funds at Blackstone, the private equity giant, has delivered, on average, 10 percent annual returns for its investors. The fund, which specializes in private credit, has lent money to more than 400 borrowers, who in turn have deployed those loans to become more profitable themselves. And yet, in the first quarter of this year, nearly 8 percent of the fund's investors declared they wanted out. Something similar has happened at funds managed by Apollo (where redemption requests hit 11.2 percent), Ares (11.6 percent) and Blue Owl (21.9 percent).

When asked on CNBC to explain why his investors are asking for their cash back, the Blackstone president, Jonathan Gray, blamed "noise" — a "disjointed environment now between what's happening on the ground with underlying portfolios and what's happening in the news cycle." He may well be right. Another explanation might be that we are witnessing a kind of slow-motion bank run. Investors, spooked by a litany of bad news, are rushing to pull their money out of private credit funds. If they all ask at once, these funds — and potentially the firms that manage them — could falter.

To quote the great Taylor Swift, "I think I've seen this film before and I didn't like the ending." ...

Full op ed at https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/06/opinion/banking-crisis-private-credit.html.

Just saying...

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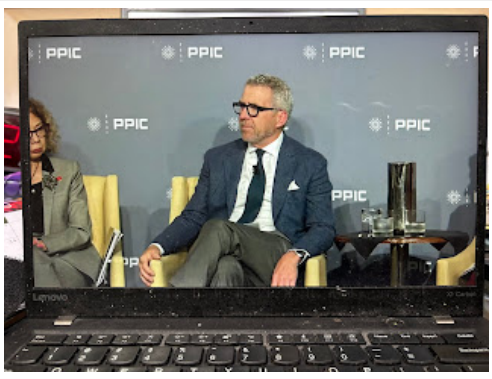
*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/04/more-conversations.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: endowment, pension, UC

Saturday, April 11, 2026

What Milliken said about AI, Trump administration, and TPM



On April 9th, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) held a lunch/conference on issues facing higher education.

The program was moderated by Tani Cantil-Sakauye, PPIC President and CEO (also former chief justice of the California Supreme Court). Guests were Sonya Christian, Chancellor, California Community Colleges, Mildred García, Chancellor, The California State University, James Milliken, President, University of California, and Kristen Soares, President, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities.

In response to an initial question about the major challenges facing higher ed, Milliken said he told the Regents - when he was a candidate for his current position, that the two important challenges were the conflict with the Trump administration and adapting to AI. He said he now thinks the former is less an issue than the latter.

Asked about campus free speech, he indicated that free speech had to be balanced against interference with the operation of the university, a point with which the moderator agreed.* You can hear what he said at the link below.

Or direct to https://ia601506.us.archive.org/0/items/newsom-03-04-2026/PPIC%20Higher%20Ed%20Event-Milliken%204-9-2026.mp4.

===

*These conversations often focus on constitutional rights and other legalisms. The constitution, however, gives the same right to say that the Earth is flat as it does to say that the Earth is round. One of the values - not rights - of universities is that they are supposed to help you to know what you are talking about. It would have been nice if someone had pointed this out. So I just did.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, Milliken, politics

Straws in the Wind - Part 309

From the Yale Daily News: *More than 120 students and alumni recently signed a letter addressed to Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis to express "deep concern" after film studies lecturer Shakti Bhagchandani told her students that Yale would not renew her contract due to budget tightening measures. German lecturer Austen Hinkley spoke to his 72-person "Marx, Nietzsche, Freud" lecture about his contract non-renewal, which he also said was impacted by budget cuts. Lecturer Matthew Morrison, who teaches a course in medicine and the humanities, wrote in an email to his former students that "Yale has, as yet, not renewed my contract for next year, conceivably due to its newly straitened financial situation."*

Bhagchandi, Hinkley and Morrison are all part of the instructional faculty, a group that comprises the non-tenure track positions of lecturers and lectors, who have limited job security even under more normal budgetary circumstances. In an email to the News, Faculty of Arts and

Sciences Dean Steven Wilkinson acknowledged that recent pressure on Yale's budget impacted contract decisions. It remains unclear how likely the contracts' renewals would have been without the austerity measures caused by an impending endowment tax hike...

Full story at https://yaledailynews.com/articles/instructors-let-go-amid-budget-cuts-drawing-flak-on-yale-s-priorities.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Yale

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 140

From the Harvard Crimson: *Harvard College Dean David J. Deming acknowledged that far more students are likely using artificial intelligence than the College's disciplinary system has been able to detect, saying he hopes to "push harder" on the issue in the years ahead. Speaking at a fireside chat for Academic Integrity Week on Thursday and at an open forum earlier in the week, Deming described AI as an urgent challenge facing the College — but stopped short of proposing a standardized policy to govern its use, pointing to the difficulty of writing rules that work across courses as different as Computer Science 50 and an upper-level English seminar. "The biggest challenge, from my perspective, with AI is that it blurs the boundaries of what we would call cheating or academic integrity in ways that actually make it really hard to write policy around," Deming said Thursday.*

Deming said the clearest cases of AI misuse — students submitting AI-generated work with hallucinated citations or accidentally including the chatbot prompt in their submission — tend to be the ones that reach the Honor Council, the student and faculty body tasked with reviewing potential violations of academic integrity policies. "But for every one of those, there are many cases where students are using AI in a more subtle way," he said.

...Assistant Dean of Harvard College Dwight Fee, who moderated the fireside chat and has served on the Honor Council, said the body requires clear evidence of AI misuse before pursuing a case. "If we have to get into guessing, it just doesn't become a case," Fee said. Asked to estimate how widespread AI misuse is among students, Deming cited a survey by the Harvard AI safety group that found 88 percent of students were using AI at least weekly. He said he expected the share to be higher now...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/4/3/deming-ai-usage-classroom/.

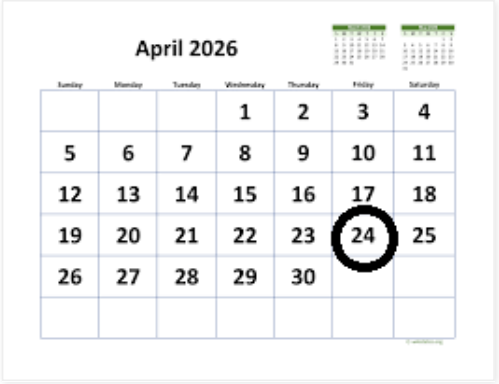
Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard, plagiarism

Friday, April 10, 2026

Coming April 24th - Part 2

Faithful blog readers may recall our post from last December reporting on a new policy that all course material had to be made accessible to disabled students as of April 24th.* It was unclear then what exactly is required and how course materials, which may be printed, video, or audio, would have to be adapted.



We are now two weeks from the deadline. EdSource is carrying an article, derived from a Daily Cal piece, describing problems at Berkeley in making the adaptation. The EdSource article doesn't seem to recognize that this is a systemwide challenge, not just a Berkeley issue:

UC Berkeley faculty are scrambling to meet changes to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, leaving them feeling both unsupported and concerned about revamping online materials, the Daily Californian reported. Professors have until April 24 to make digital course materials accessible online. Previously, according to the Daily Cal, online content accessibility standards for these materials were reserved for public resources. Additional measures to ensure accessibility have been implemented based on students' accommodations.

The U.S. Department of Justice sued the university in 2022 for allegedly failing to meet the standards. UC Berkeley was given 3 1/2 years to comply, the Daily Cal reported. Some professors, for example, noted that software designed to build websites — or format mathematical formulas — can't be easily converted to compatible formats, including PDFs, or isn't screen-reader accessible. Others have voiced concern that public materials may now be removed as a result, which happened after the 2022 lawsuit...

Full story at https://edsource.org/updates/uc-berkeley-faces-deadline-to-make-online-materials-ada-accessible.

There seems to be a UC-wide problem with not much time to fix it.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/12/coming-april-24th.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, UC, UC-Berkeley

Just a Reminder

UC President Clark Kerr hands
Master Plan to Gov. Pat Brown

From time to time, we like to remind folks - for all the good it does - about the need to develop and implement a new Master Plan for Higher Education, rather than make *ad hoc* legislative decisions. Currently, according to Capitol Weekly, there are four bills in the legislature that would make *ad hoc* adjustments:

...The California State University (CSU) system can already award some doctoral degrees, the scope of their offerings is limited to those that do not duplicate those provided by the University of California (UC). That restriction would go away under AB 2693 (Alvarez), which removes the requirement that the UC must approve any PhD offerings the CSU provides.

Restrictions on the California Community Colleges (CCC) system would also change under AB 2694, which would overturn a law that bars community colleges from offering a BA/BS degree if a similar program exists anywhere in the state. AB 2694 (Alvarez) would bar duplication "only within the same geographic region where there are documented unmet regional workforce needs."

...AB 2301 [Soria] would establish a pilot program authorizing up to 10 community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), in an effort to address California's nursing shortage.

Another Alvarez bill (AB 664) would allow Southwestern College in South San Diego County to offer up to four workforce-aligned bachelor's degree programs...

All four bills are now in the Assembly Committee on Higher Education. The deadline to pass policy bills is April 24th.

Full story at https://capitolweekly.net/californias-higher-education-master-plan-in-flux/.

Of course, putting a bill in the hopper doesn't mean it will be enacted and signed by the governor. But there already have been such bills that have been enacted and signed. And there are likely to be more.

And even without the bill, there is this:

From Santa Monica Patch: *Santa Monica College has received approval from the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and the Accrediting Commission of Community & Junior Colleges to launch a Bachelor of Science degree in Cloud Computing. "This new baccalaureate degree marks an important moment for Santa Monica College in fulfilling our mission of continuing to be a leader in preparing students for careers, as well as transfers," SMC Superintendent/President Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery said.*

The four-year degree will be SMC's second, after its B.S. in Interaction Design (IxD)—which was launched as part of a landmark statewide pilot program in 2015—and is slated to meet regional needs in one of the fastest-growing sectors in the global economy...

Full story at https://patch.com/california/santamonica/santa-monica-college-launching-bachelor-s-degree-cloud-computing.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: community colleges, CSU, legislature, Master Plan, politics, UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 308

From Inside Higher Ed: *The University of Missouri has stripped the Legion of Black Collegians —its historic Black student governing body—as well as at least four other minority affinity groups of all annual designated funding, starting in July, The Columbia Missourian reported. In addition to losing official funding, the groups will no longer be recognized as university-sponsored organizations. Mizzou officials said in a public statement that they made the decision in order to comply with DEI restrictions issued by the Department of Justice in July. In an email to Inside Higher Ed, university spokesperson Christopher Ave said that it was the funding model —not the organizations themselves—that violated the DOJ memo. (The organizations can still apply for funding like other student groups.)*

...In a series of social media posts, the targeted student organizations argued that the memo constitutes guidance—not law. But when asked about the students' objections, Ave said, "the memo provides specific guidance on the Department of Justice's interpretation of federal law." ...Some higher education history experts see Mizzou's move as more than just another pre-emptive action taken by university leaders in response to Trump's intimidation tactics. The flagship university has a deep history of racial tensions and student activism on campus, so they're watching closely to see how the students respond...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/diversity/race-ethnicity/2026/04/07/mizzou-terminates-official-funding-black-student-council.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, U of Missouri

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 139

From the Harvard Crimson: *Harvard President Alan M. Garber '76 urged affiliates last Tuesday to treat disagreement as a core feature of academic life, arguing that engaging with competing ideas is essential to how the University teaches and produces knowledge. Speaking during the second day of Harvard's annual Community and Campus Life Forum, Garber positioned the University's ongoing efforts around campus culture within its broader intellectual mission, emphasizing that how students and faculty interact shapes what they are able to discover...*

The forum, a three-day event that brought together more than 200 affiliates in person and virtually, was the first held under the office's new name after it was rebranded last April from the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging. The programming reflected a broader shift in emphasis away from discussions around individual identity, with sessions focused on constructive dialogue and engaging across differences. Garber said that meaningful inquiry depends on exposure to unfamiliar perspectives and a willingness to test one's assumptions against evidence and argument...

The address comes as Harvard faces political pressure over its approach to diversity initiatives, including the Trump administration's repeated demand that the University dismantle DEI programs. While Garber's remarks echoed themes from previous years, he used the word "diversity" only once in his speech, in reference to "diverse viewpoints."

...The data also pointed to challenges in engaging across difference. Only 59 percent of respondents said they had formed satisfying relationships with people who hold different viewpoints, and several groups fell below 50 percent when asked about their comfort expressing opinions across ideological lines...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/4/6/garber-ccl-forum/.

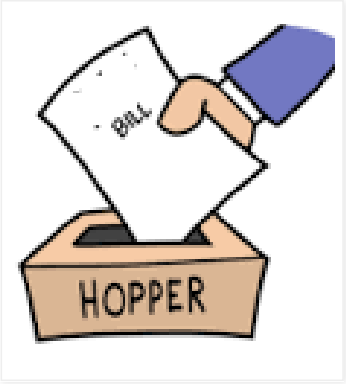
Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Harvard

Thursday, April 9, 2026

AFSCME Conflict of Interest Bill in the Hopper

From the San Francisco Chronicle: *University of California executives routinely sit on the boards of companies that do business with the system — a common arrangement around the country that helps connect schools with industry. But they are also lucrative moonlighting deals that raise questions about influence and access, and a Bay Area state senator wants those relationships to end at UC. Sen. Aisha Wahab, D-Hayward, is asking fellow lawmakers to prohibit companies from contracting with UC if any university executive or family member is paid by the business — including sitting on their board of directors — and to extend the ban for at least one year after payment ends. Violations would trigger a 10-year ban on business ties between that company and UC.*



...UC's lobbyist argued at the hearing that such a law would trigger an "immediate operational and instructional crisis" across the university, and that no conflicts of interest occur because rules require executives to recuse themselves when faced with decisions that would personally benefit them. The committee approved the bill by a vote of 4-2 and sent it to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Neither Wahab nor the ***bill's sponsor, UC's largest employee union, Local 3299 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees****, flagged any actual conflicts of interest resulting from the executives' secondary jobs. They said it was impossible to know if such conflicts exist.*

...If the bill becomes law, it "would trigger an immediate operational and instructional crisis across the UC's 10 campuses and five medical centers," Tyler Aguilar, a UC lobbyist, told the education committee. The bill defines compensation as anything worth $500 or more. So if a UC executive earned even a $500 dividend from a company doing business with UC, the violation would mean that company could not contract with UC for 10 years, he said. "If we can't renew our contract with Microsoft, our students and faculty can't do their work," he said, offering that vendor as an example. He said board service also helps ensure that products are consistent with UC's needs.

Aguilar said UC is already governed by a "robust suite" of conflict-of-interest protections. These include state laws that bar employees from having a financial interest in certain activities; UC's Conflict of Interest Code,which requires officials to disclose private economic interests and recuse themselves from making decisions in which they have a stake; and other UC policies aimed at reining in conflicts. UC also has a specific policy covering executives' "outside professional activities," like board service. If the executive receives at least $2,500 for the work, Policy 7707 requires yearly approval from the executive's manager. Serving on more than one board requires approval from the regents...

The issue is not unique to UC, said [Lynn] Pasquerella, [President] of the American Association of Colleges and Universities. "Universities today operate within a complex ecosystem that increasingly overlaps with industry, health care systems and private-sector partners," she said. "The concerns that motivate SB 1141 are legitimate," Pasquerella said. "Closed-door board meetings can heighten the appearance of a conflict of interest even when officials are technically complying with disclosure and recusal rules." But she warned that excluding UC leaders altogether from corporate boards doing business with the university risks "overcorrecting" the problem...

Full story at https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/uc-executive-board-company-22185837.php.

As we have noted in other contexts, the road to actual enactment of a bill and getting it signed by the governor can be a long one. Many bills die in the process. AFSCME reached a wage settlement with UC in March. Other terms are still under negotiation.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: legislature, politics, UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 307

From the Columbia Daily Spectator: *Barnard will not host its annual financial aid fundraising gala this year, opting instead to focus its resources on a celebration for the fall 2026 opening of the Roy and Diana Vagelos Science Center and "smaller, more intimate" alumni gatherings. Alumni leaders who spoke to Spectator said that the college's communication surrounding the gala's cancellation, which Spectator learned about through two alumni leaders with knowledge of the matter, has highlighted a growing transparency problem between school leadership and alumni. The annual gala, which Barnard has held for over three decades, is the largest annual fundraising event hosted by the college. Last year, it brought in nearly $4 million.*

Rona Wilk, BC '91, told Spectator that Hillary Strong, vice president for advancement at Barnard, discussed the cancellation with the then-20-person board of directors of the Alumnae Association of Barnard College at a Feb. 3 board meeting. Barnard, however, has yet to notify the broader alumni community, though it did inform ticket purchasers for previous galas of this year's cancellation on Dec. 9, 2025, according to a copy of the communication shared with Spectator. Wilk, who has been involved with alumni work at Barnard for 25 years, said that canceling the event "feels like a brushing aside" of Barnard's commitment to financial aid.

The cancellation comes as Barnard has become increasingly reliant on student revenue to support its operations, with roughly three-quarters of its operating support coming from tuition and room and board, according to a financial summary sent to the Barnard community on Jan. 28...

Wilk was asked to step down weeks after having an "outburst" about her transparency concerns at [a] Feb. 3 meeting, she said. Hours after the meeting, which she had left early, she apologized in an email to the alumnae association board...

Full story at https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2026/04/01/amid-debt-crisis-barnard-quietly-cancels-annual-financial-aid-fundraising-gala/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Barnard, fund raising

If only we could cut out the academics...

...things would be great at Dartmouth:

From The Dartmouth: *On March 10, the Dartmouth Student Government released the results of their **2025-2026 student issues survey**, which was authorized by DSG's Student Issues Task*

Force in September 2025. DSG uses data from the survey, which typically draws over 1,000 student respondents, to understand student needs and support projects in conversations with the College. The Dartmouth reviewed the 52-page document. The majority of students agreed that freedom of speech is protected at Dartmouth. ***They agreed that academics had a negative impact on their mental health, but that all other surveyed factors had a positive impact****...*

Full story at https://www.thedartmouth.com/article/2026/04/student-issues-survey.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: Dartmouth, health care

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Getting In - Part 5

Professor Emeritus Dan Hare of UC-Riverside sent me a link to a San Francisco Chronicle article on the use of AI in college admissions essays:

...My students had already been using ChatGPT for months for their homework and personal advice. When application season began, the bot remembered these details. It knew their preferences and interests through the Memory feature and could tailor their essays accordingly. That wasn't enough, though. Students first brainstormed essay topics and writing outlines without AI assistance. They then gave that information to ChatGPT along with past self-written essays. It began mirroring their voice.

In a 2025 study, Cornell University researchers concluded that large-language model-generated college essays were generic compared to human-written ones, but they didn't use elaborate prompting or engage with the models beforehand. That's not the way people are using ChatGPT now. *The college essay isn't a novel or a blank canvas. It's less ambiguous. It serves a purpose: to show who you are outside of grades and test scores. With a defined purpose, training and prompting, models can now write compelling essays for students to pick from and refine.*

Throughout the application cycle, I worried that my students would get caught using these tools. When submitting applications on the Common App, students sign a statement certifying that all the work is their own. But a policy is only as strong as its enforcement, which so far seems nearly impossible. The Common App and most universities likely don't use AI detection tools because they're unreliable. Despite warnings that admissions officers are trained to spot AI indicators, recent studies show that most people mistake AI-generated text for human writing. In fact, one study fine-tuned ChatGPT on award-winning authors' works and found that readers favored AI-generated text over human writing for stylistic fidelity and quality. This suggests that students may actually gain an advantage by using these tools on their college essays...

Full story at https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/ai-college-admission-essay-application-22156396.php.

Bottom line: AI written essays are now not being written "cold." Instead, the models learn the style of the purported student author and "improve" it. So trying to detect them is very difficult, if not impossible.

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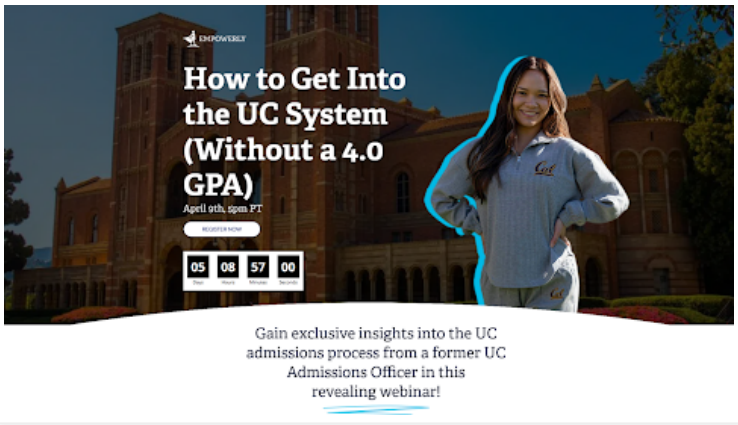
Meanwhile, there seems to be an endless supply of former admissions officer who will tell you how to get in. (There are so many former admissions officers. Are there any left who are still employed to staff the admissions offices?)


How to Get Into the UC System (Without a 4.0 GPA)
April 9th, 5pm PT
05 08 57 00
Gain exclusive insights into the UC admissions process from a former UC Admissions Officer in this revealing webinar!

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, UC-Riverside

Straws in the Wind - Part 306

From the LA Times: *More than 7 million student loan borrowers who have been enrolled in a Biden-era repayment plan will receive notices ...with instructions to seek a new plan to repay their debt, the Education Department said. Borrowers enrolled in the SAVE plan, which was struck down by a federal court last month, have been in forbearance since July 2024 as a legal battle played out in courts. Starting July 1, loan servicers will begin issuing notices giving borrowers 90 days to select a new repayment plan. The available repayment plans will mean higher monthly payments for most of those borrowers.*

When Alexis Arredondo graduated from UCLA in 2024 with a degree in microbiology, he struggled to find full-time work in research or public health. Instead, he began working part time and freelancing for nonprofits in Southern California. A first-generation college student, he took on roughly $40,000 in student debt and enrolled in the SAVE plan upon graduation. Now, he said, he has to choose between paying more per month, which would be a struggle to afford, or a longer repayment period, which would increase how much he pays in interest. "It's very difficult knowing where I'm going to be to able to get this money from," he said...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2026-04-01/education-department-directs-student-loan-borrowers-in-save-plan-to-prepare-for-repayment

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, tuition, UCLA

UC Retirement Online Programs

For those at UC thinking of retirement:

April 15th @ noon UC Retirement Process: https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jXKPWSzETvGzr-hQ-jCSAg

April 15th @ 5:00 PM UC Retirement Process: https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BxHCQTc8SxK8PdScuStyEw

April 16th @ noon UC Retiree Health: https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VRYbYZvjTnaxJZmKZZaGcg

April 16th @ 5:00 PM UC Retiree Health: https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZU0CrFpVS66p6BCrV7upwg

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, uc retirement

Donation

From the LA Times: *UCLA, Cal State L.A. and Cal State Dominguez Hills will receive $110 million to bolster their mental health programs, providing financial assistance and clinical resources to students seeking to fill the gaps of a major statewide shortage in the field of social work. On Monday, the universities announced that the Ballmer Group — an investment group owned by Connie and Steve Ballmer, owner of the Clippers and former Microsoft chief executive — would support an effort to expand social work, youth counseling and mental health programs in underserved neighborhoods, including South and East L.A...*

Cal State L.A. will receive $48 million to add more students to its master of social work programs and provide more than 1,000 scholarships and grants for prospective students...

CSU Dominguez Hills will use part of its $29-million grant to launch Toros Heal L.A., an initiative to grow mental health resources in South L.A...

UCLA [will] use its $33-million grant to provide scholarships and develop a minor in youth behavioral health...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-04-06/ucla-csus-110-million-donation-mental-health-ballmer.

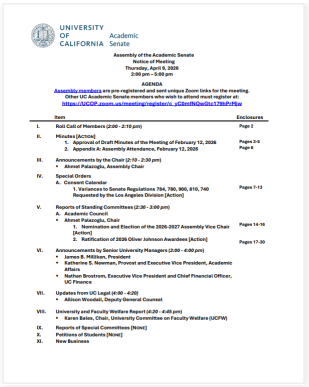
Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: CSU, fund raising, UCLA

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Assembly

The Assembly of the Academic Senate is meeting via Zoom on April 9th. Past meetings have featured issues of controversy placed on the agenda by petition. But the upcoming meeting seems to be more routine. See the agenda below. There is a request from UCLA's Senate for "variances" in grading that appear to be technical issues. Senate member may attend the Zoom meeting by registering through the link at the bottom of this post.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Academic Senate

Assembly of the Academic Senate
Notice of Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2026
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

AGENDA

Assembly members are pre-registered and sent unique Zoom links for the meeting.
Other UC Academic Senate members who wish to attend must register at:
https://UCOP.zoom.us/meeting/register/u_yCDmtfiQwOIu1798JFJ9w

	Item	Enclosures
I.	Roll Call of Members (2:00 – 2:10 pm)	Page 2
II.	Minutes [Actions] 1. Approval of Draft Minutes of the Meeting of February 12, 2026 2. Appendix A: Assembly Attendance, February 12, 2026	Pages 3-5 Page 6
III.	Announcements by the Chair (2:10 – 2:30 pm) • Ahmet Palazoglu, Assembly Chair	
IV.	Special Orders A. Consent Calendar 1. Variances to Senate Regulations 784, 780, 900, 810, 740 Requested by the Los Angeles Division [Action]	Pages 7-13
V.	Reports of Standing Committees (2:30 – 3:00 pm) A. Academic Council • Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair 1. Nomination and Election of the 2026-2027 Assembly Vice Chair [Action] 2. Ratification of 2026 Oliver Johnson Awardees [Action]	Pages 14-16 Pages 17-30
VI.	Announcements by Senior University Managers (3:00 – 4:00 pm) • James B. Milliken, President • Katherine S. Newman, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs • Nathan Brostrom, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, UC Finance	
VII.	Updates from UC Legal (4:00 – 4:20) • Allison Woodall, Deputy General Counsel	
VIII.	University and Faculty Welfare Report (4:20 – 4:40 pm) • Karen Bales, Chair, University Committee on Faculty Welfare (UCFW)	
IX.	Reports of Special Committees [None]	
X.	Petitions of Students [None]	
XI.	New Business	

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Assembly of the Academic Senate: Notice of Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Agenda

I. Roll Call of Members

II. Minutes [ACTION]

1. Approval of Draft Minutes of the Meeting of February 12, 2026

2. Appendix A: Assembly Attendance, February 12, 2026

III. Announcements by the Chair

 Ahmet Palazoglu, Assembly Chair

IV. Special Orders

A. Consent Calendar

1. Variances to Senate Regulations 784, 780, 900, 810, 740 Requested by the Los Angeles Division [Action]

V. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Academic Council

 Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair

1. Nomination and Election of the 2026-2027 Assembly Vice Chair [Action]

2. Ratification of 2026 Oliver Johnson Awardees [Action]

VI. Announcements by Senior University Managers

 James B. Milliken, President

 Katherine S. Newman, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs

 Nathan Brostrom, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, UC Finance

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VII. Updates from UC Legal

 Allison Woodall, Deputy General Counsel

VIII. University and Faculty Welfare Report

 Karen Bales, Chair, University Committee on Faculty Welfare (UCFW)

IX. Reports of Special Committees [NONE]

X. Petitions of Students [NONE]

XI. New Business

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Full agenda and attachments at
https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/assembly/assembly-agenda-4-9-26.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UC, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 305

From the Brown Daily Herald: *In a historic move, graduate fellows at Brown are seeking recognition as part of the Graduate Labor Organization, the union representing graduate student employees... Leaders from RIFT-AFT Local 6516, GLO's parent group, sent a message to University officials announcing the graduate fellows' intent to unionize... The move appears to be the first of its kind at a private U.S. institution of higher education, something union organizers argue is made possible by a novel Rhode Island law passed in August that explicitly codifies the right of graduate student employees — including fellows not working as teaching or research assistants — to unionize.*

Graduate fellows are students who receive stipend funding unrelated to whether or not they officially work as research or teaching assistants. The University's current contract with GLO includes only graduate student employees recognized by the National Labor Relations Board, many of whom are teaching or research assistants. Fellows are not currently recognized at the federal level, according to Patrick Crowley, the president of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO branch, which advocated for the bill's passage. "This is exactly why we did it: to make sure that workers who don't have the right to organize federally can organize in the state," Crowley said...

Full story at https://www.browndailyherald.com/article/2026/03/graduate-fellows-seek-to-unionize-in-unprecedented-move.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Brown University

The Road to UCLA Seems to Run Through UCLA's Geffen Academy

SFGATE, a Bay Area news service, recently ran an article about high schools with high rates of acceptance to Berkeley, UCLA, and other UCs. Within that

article comes this tidbit:

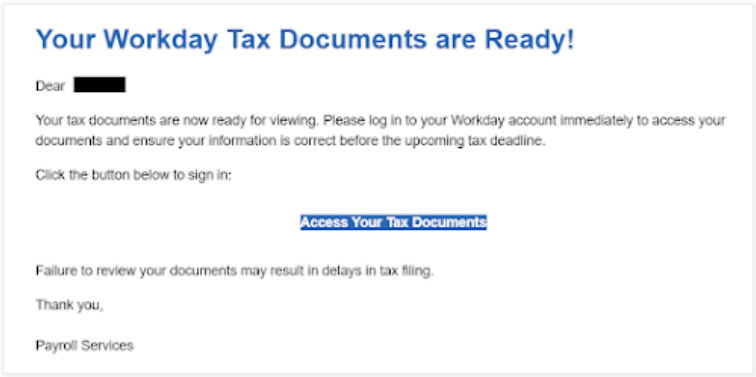
Geffen Academy at UCLA had the highest acceptance rate for UCLA with 26%, or 16 out of 61 applicants, gaining admission.

Source: https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/acceptances-uc-high-schools-22187590.php.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, uc-b, UCLA

Don't Click!



Your Workday Tax Documents are Ready!

Dear [redacted]

Your tax documents are now ready for viewing. Please log in to your Workday account immediately to access your documents and ensure your information is correct before the upcoming tax deadline.

Click the button below to sign in:

Access Your Tax Documents

Failure to review your documents may result in delays in tax filing.

Thank you,

Payroll Services

It may be tax time, but if you click on this fraudulent email which has been sent to some UCLA addresses, you will have a taxing experience.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud

Monday, April 6, 2026

Agostini's Every Ship on Its Own Bottom

As blog readers will know, former UCLA CFO Agostini left us his budget book before he was fired for saying Very Bad Things about the budget as it was under previous managers (some of whom are still around).* Life is a learning experience and I am sure he won't be saying Very Bad Things in his new role as CFO of Culver City.

Anyway, his budget book divided up the university into "units" and provided information on revenues, expenditures, and (therefore) surpluses or deficits. So, who were the bad guys projected to run big deficits this current academic/fiscal year?

As we have noted in prior postings, revenues are a mix of state funds allocated and outside funds obtained. For example, the Academic Senate's revenue is basically what it allocated. If it can't stay within that budget, it could mean bad management. But it could also mean that more money needed to be allocated for the Senate to do its job. Athletics, in contrast, is supposed to be self-financing (but isn't). External Affairs includes fundraising. But most of those funds that it raises go to other units. The University Consortium of Schools supports relations with K-12 to help schools prepare their students for admission to UCLA. What is the adequate level of revenue for that function?

Despite these considerations, Agostini seemed to be taking an "every-ship-on-its-own-bottom" approach to budgeting: You're a Good Guy if you stay within your revenues or even run a surplus. You're a Bad Guy if you run a deficit.

Below is a table of Bad Guys defined (by yours truly) as units which had projected deficits for 2025-26 (as seen as of Sept. 2025) of 5% of expenditures. (The 5% figure is arbitrary.) Note, of course, that the absolute level of expenditures varies very widely among units. I used the percentage approach on the rough idea that cutting a given percentage would produce about the same "pain" for a unit, regardless of size.

$millons	2025-26 Projected Deficit	% of Expenditures
Academic Senate	-0.45	-13.6
Broad Stem Cell Center	-4.36	-50.3
CA Nanosystems Institute	-1.95	-11.2
Campus & Community Safety	-7.83	-33.9
David Geffen School of Medicine	-196.87	-5.2
External Affairs	-15.19	-14.3
Graduate Education	-1.74	-10.9
Institute of American Cultures	-6.09	-32.7
Intercollegiate Athletics	-78.23	-37.3
L+S Humanities	-8.43	-6.4
Office of Advanced Research Computing	-14.83	-53.5
School of Education & Info Studies	-8.6	-9.8
School of Engineering	-39.71	-13.2
School of Public Health	-7.54	-6.1
University Consortium of Schools	-3.91	-6.6
UCLA Teaching and Learning Center	-0.75	-7
University Library	-6.65	-8.6
VC Research	-4.43	-6.3

While the med school barely makes the 5% criterion for the list, in absolute dollar terms, it far exceeds the others. Note that the med school's finances are intertwined in complicated ways with the hospitals and thus with patient revenues. Athletics is way over budget in percentage and absolute terms. Computing is way over in percentage terms. Is that the One IT thing gone wrong? Engineering, like medicine, is the home of significant research grants. Is the fact that both the med school and engineering are on the list above a reflection of the current troubles with the federal government? These are all interesting questions. But since Agostini ain't here to explain, they may never be answered.

One more thing: We have noted that there is missing data in Agostini's budget book, in the prior UCLA financial reports which he criticized as misleading, and in more recent information provided to the Academic Senate's Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB). The missing information is **RESERVES**. If UCLA has been running a deficit (expenditures > revenues), it must have been getting the money to finance that deficit from somewhere. If any organization runs an operating deficit, it either has to borrow the money from somewhere (which public sector entities such as UCLA are not supposed to do), or run down previously accumulated reserves. ***So what are those reserves?***

If you look, for example, at the state's budget information, you will find estimates of revenues, expenditures, *and reserves*. How much of an emergency a deficit is depends on your ability to cover it. Movie buffs may recall **Citizen Kane**'s ability to cover the deficits of his money-losing newspaper:

Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9OUZNicTGU.

If you have lots of reserves relative to your deficit, you will have to make a correction but it can be done over a multiyear period to reduce the pain. If you don't have reserves, you have to fix the problem now.

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*Here is a listing of all our prior post-Agostini budget discussions on this blog:

https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/04/he-aint-here-for-budget-explanations.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/what-agostini-said-about.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/he-aint-here-for-budget-explanations_28.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/he-aint-here-for-budget-explanations_27.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/he-aint-here-for-budget-explanations_0514550503.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/he-aint-here-for-budget-explanations.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/the-budget-first-lets-preserve-then_0413053783.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/the-budget-first-lets-preserve-then_13.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/03/the-budget-first-lets-preserve-then.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/02/the-budget-first-lets-preserve-then.html.

We have preserved past UCLA budget documents so they won't vanish at:

https://archive.org/details/ucla-budget-book-v-final-feb-2026.

In particular, the Agostini budget book is at:

https://dn720904.ca.archive.org/0/items/ucla-budget-book-v-final-feb-2026/UCLA%20Budget%20Book%20v%20FINAL%20Feb%202026.pdf.

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**The CPB analysis of "discretionary spending" (whatever definition you put on that phrase), suggests there is a starting "balance" and an ending "balance" in the account at the beginning and end of the fiscal year. See page 6 of:

https://dn720904.ca.archive.org/0/items/ucla-budget-book-v-final-feb-2026/UCLA%20Council%20on%20Planning%20and%20Budget%20%20Updated%20Report_%20Analysis%20of%20UCLA%20Campus%20Structural%20Deficit%203-20-2026.pdf

The chart shows a negative balance at the beginning of the 2024-25 fiscal year. It shows a projected negative balance at the end of the current fiscal year. If there can be a negative balance in this account, there has to be a source of reserves somewhere in the system that covers the overdrawn amounts. *Where and what is it?*

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 304

From the NY Times: *The syllabus for SCLL 230-001, also known as "Men and Women," describes requirements different from the typical college course. Students in the class, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, must go on a date, plan their own weddings and organize a ball (a group project). Guest speakers last fall included Chloe Cole, an activist against gender treatment for minors; Dr. William B. Hurlbut, a former White House bioethics adviser who warned about the dangers of premarital sex; and several married couples, one with a baby who was passed around to students. The class reading list includes ideas from both the right and left, and the course is billed as a chance to openly debate issues affecting the genders in the age of a "masculinity crisis in the modern West." But some students who took the class said it tilted toward promoting traditional gender roles in dating, marriage and family life.*

The class is among the offerings at the U.N.C. School of Civic Life and Leadership, one of more than 40 academic programs that have sprung up across the country as part of a movement among conservatives to combat what they see as excessive leftism on college campuses. While the centers vary in curriculum, they emphasize Western thought, America's founders and civil discourse... But the centers have also drawn controversy and criticism, including from some initial supporters. Shiri Spitz Siddiqi, chief researcher for the nonprofit group Heterodox Academy, which released a report on the programs last year, said the centers had generated "a lot of distrust among mainstream academics."

At U.N.C., some conservative faculty members say the program has been hypocritical. The school, they argue, is mimicking the same problems that conservatives have said are endemic to left-leaning campuses, such as applying ideological litmus tests in hiring to keep out professors who don't fit a certain political profile...

Some students have been drawn to the school because of special financial offers. Students who pursue minors are eligible for the Libertas Scholarship, valued at $12,000 over four years. Tuition at U.N.C. is about $7,000 a year for in-state students and about $43,000 for out-of-state students. Before freshmen arrived on campus last fall, the school had offered another deal for them, even if they hadn't signed up for the minor. "Students: we offer a $3,000 scholarship, transformational programming (including a tech-free retreat in the NC mountains), and superb faculty leadership," the promotion read. To receive the money, students had to live in a residential "civil discourse" community — called Civ-Comm — connected to the school...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/30/us/politics/unc-civics-school-conservative-debate.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, U of North Carolina

More Subway Construction This Month

Westwood/UCLA Station Construction

Summary

Workers continue constructing the future Westwood/UCLA Station within UCLA Lot 36. Activities may require temporary lane closures to access this site. Work includes hauling, utility removal, material delivery, concrete pours, and backfilling excavations. Work will continue through April 30, 2026.

To reduce impacts to stakeholders, Metro contractors will implement intermittent traffic closures. Closures may impact westbound Wilshire Bl between Westwood Bl and Veteran Av, crosswalks on Wilshire Bl and Gayley Av, southbound right turn pockets at Gayley Av/Wilshire Bl (dual right turns impacted), and Westwood Bl/Wilshire Bl.

Date

- Through April 30, 2026

Work Hours

- Weekdays and Weekends
- 5 am to 4 pm
- 7:30 pm to 5 am

Hauling Daytime Hours

- 6:30 am to 5 pm

Noteworthy

- All work has received necessary permits and approvals.
- Access for pedestrians will be maintained outside of construction zones.
- Access for the fire department and emergency responders will be maintained.
- Parking restrictions will be implemented in the immediate area of the work zone.
- Construction is dynamic and schedules are subject to change.
- **24/7 Hotline:** 213-922-6934

Metro Access

Metro bus stops may be relocated, or lines could be impacted. For more information on changes to Metro service, please call 323.GoMetro, or visit metro.net/triplanner

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Construction at Wilshire Bl/Westwood Bl for Station Entrance

Summary

Decking installation at the southeast entrance of the Westwood/UCLA Station is scheduled to begin the weekend of April 10. Work is anticipated from Fridays at 9 pm through Mondays at 6 am. There may be additional periodic night closures.

This work will construct the final of the Westwood/UCLA Station entrances and will require lane reductions on eastbound Wilshire Bl, from west of Veteran Av to Westwood Bl. Additional lane reductions will be taken on Veteran Av just north and

south of Wilshire Bl. Some Wilshire Bl sidewalks will be closed so please follow detour signage.

Work will include installation of K-Rail and fencing, deck installation, set up and breakdown of temporary traffic control, and hauling.

Date

- April 10 - April 17

Work Hours

- 9 pm Friday through 6 am Monday

Traffic Control

- Wilshire Bl will be closed between Galey Av/Midvale Av and Westwood Bl.
- Eastbound traffic on Wilshire Bl will be detoured north, onto Galey Av and south, onto Midvale Av.
- Traffic will remain open on westbound Wilshire Bl; please follow all detour signage.

Metro Access

- Metro bus stops may be relocated, or lines could be impacted. Please call 323.GoMetro for details.

Noteworthy

- All work has received necessary permits and approvals.
- Access for pedestrians will be maintained outside of the construction zone.
- Access for emergency responders will be maintained.
- Construction is a dynamic process and the schedule is subject to change.
- **24/7 Hotline:** 213-922-6934

Detour Routes:

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: traffic, transportation, UCLA

Closed Door (but a guess)

The Regents are having yet another meeting tomorrow about The Problem With The Feds.* You are not invited:

TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA:

Because the membership of the Advisory Group on Research and Programs Funding Legal Issues ("Advisory Group") includes five members of the Regents' Governance Committee, there exists the potential for having present a quorum of a Regents' Committee when the advisory committee meets.

This notice of meeting is served in order to comply fully with pertinent open meeting laws. On Tuesday, April 7, 2026, there will be a Closed Session, Special Meeting of the Regents' Governance Committee concurrent with the Advisory Group to discuss Research and Programs Funding Legal Issues (Closed Session Statute Citation: Litigation [Education Code section 92032(b)(5)].)

The meeting will convene at 4:00 p.m. at 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland and adjourn at approximately 5:00 p.m.

(Advisory Group members: Regents Anguiano, Cohen, Hernandez, Matosantos, Milliken, Reilly, Robinson, Sarris, and Sures)

Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/april26/meeting-notice_federal-april-7-2026.pdf.

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***Yours truly is willing to guess - without evidence as the phrase goes nowadays - that this meeting will include discussion of the recent court decision described below.** From the LA Times:

Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV of the U.S. District Court of Massachusetts issued his order [last] Friday night in response to a lawsuit brought by California and 16 other Democratic-led states. The judge's preliminary injunction applies only to public colleges and universities in the states that sued while the case proceeds through litigation. For now, the ruling grants a reprieve to the University of California and California State University systems, which said in court filings that the data request was onerous, rushed, risked student privacy and required administrators to track down hard-to-find information for hundreds of thousands of students that individual campuses log differently. In addition to race and GPA information, the Trump administration has asked for standardized test scores, grant aid amounts and family income...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-04-03/california-lawsuit-uc-csu-race-gpa-data-trump-administration.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: CSU, diversity, politics, UC, UC Regents

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